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Comments

The big story about prices received by stockmen and other farmers in September isn't that they declined three points to 134, though they did that. Or, that prices paid by stockmen held at their record high 151, though they did that. No, the big story is that the parity ratio fell from its revised 60 for August to 59 in September.

That's the lowest parity ratio in more than 48 years—since April 1933! Lower prices for cattle as well as corn and soybeans were mainly responsible for that decline.

The 134 was 8 points (5.8%) below a year ago. The 151 prices paid index was up 10 points (7.1%) above a year ago. The ratio of prices received to prices paid was off 2 points to 89. It has stood at 101 a year ago. For those who can remember back, it was August 1973 when the parity ratio reached 106—above 100 for the first time since the days of the Korean War. And, the last time it's reached that point to date.

Parity stayed in the high 60s throughout the first five months of 1977, then tumbled off to 63—a new modern low—in August and September of that year. It averaged 66 for the full year.

It rallied somewhat in 1978, though it never was higher than 75. And averaged 70 for the year. More of the same in 1979 when it averaged 71 for the year. Last year, parity hit a low of 60 in April, stayed at 61 through June, peaked at 67 in August and averaged 64 for the year. The lowest year's average since the depression.

This year, it began at 66 in January, stayed there in February. Then dropped: To 64 in March, 63 in April and May, 62 in June and July. It was first put at 61 in August, but then revised to 60.

As part of its determined effort to halt inflation, the government is attempting to keep food prices soft without sending them into a drastic slide. Beef cattle prices declined from \$59 to \$58.40 per cwt. last month, the lowest since December 1978. Moreover, cattle prices were a major contributor to the lowest parity ratio in more than 48 years. No one can blame the Administration for trying to hold down inflation. The U.S. would be in far less trouble today if it had shown the same concern in the past. But agriculture should not have to play the scapegoat in the garden party.



VIDEO AUCTION—Buyers gathered at San Luis Obispo, Calif. and at the California Pines Lodge in Altruss for the Cal Poly Performance Tested Bull Sale. Both groups had the same chance to bid: some in person and others via video tape and telephone lines. (Staff photo by Alex Mostrous)

USDA drafts plan grading leaner beef

USDA plans to allow leaner beef to qualify for its top quality grades as suggested by the National Cattlemen's Assn., according to a draft copy of the agency's proposed new beef grading standards obtained by CNS.

The standard revisions would allow leaner beef to qualify for the U.S. prime and U.S. choice grades without significantly lowering the palatability of either grade.

The draft proposal would offer annual savings of \$100 million or more through reduced feeding costs for grain fed beef.

Since the proposal is only a draft, further changes are possible before USDA completes its plans.

Under the proposal, the minimum amount of marbling required for steer, heifer and cow beef in the "A" maturity range (cattle up to about 30 months of age) would be lowered to "minimum moderate" for the prime grade, to "typical slight" for choice and to "minimum traces" for the good grade.

Under the current system, beef in the "A" range must have at least "slightly abundant" marbling to qualify for the prime grade, "minimum small" marbling for the choice grade and

Industry doubtful about beef grading changes

Although producers will be encouraged to feed cattle to lighter weights at less cost if the National Cattlemen's Assn.'s proposal to broaden the choice beef grade is passed, meat industry executives said recently they are doubtful about consumer benefits of the proposal.

As grading standards are changed, there is concern over pressure on retailers to interpret what consumers want and structure merchandising programs around that, Charles Hendryx, vice president of meat marketing for Butt Grocery Co., Corpus Christi, Texas, told the American Meat Institute recently. A higher proportion of retail promotions are for USDA choice beef, Hendryx said. This is

"minimum slight" marbling for the good grade.

USDA elected not to base quality grades on fat thickness or fat color under the proposal, because these factors could create problems for USDA graders and could contribute to inaccuracies in grading, USDA said.

USDA also proposes to eliminate the standard grade and to grade as "utility" all beef failing to meet the minimum quality requirements for the good grade.

For cattle in the "B" maturity range (about 30 to 42 months of age), the draft proposal would require an increase of two degrees of marbling from the proposed "A" range minimums for each grade.

The draft made no proposal for changing current yield grading requirements. The American Meat Institute earlier this year petitioned USDA to return yield grades for beef carcasses to a voluntary option for users of USDA's grading services.

The draft said USDA standards for grades of slaughter cattle would be revised to reflect the changes proposed for the beef carcass grade standards.

And allows retailers to maintain quality levels at the meat counter, he said. Retailers require uniformity in product and confidence from consumers to promote sales, Hendryx said. Greater communication between retailers, consumers and packers in explaining the benefits of leaner beef is needed to promote sales, he said.

P.N. Dequattro, vice president and director of purchasing meat and provisions for Valles Service Corp., Walla Walla, Mass., said he opposes the beef grading proposal because restaurant customers must be able to identify and separate quality and price.

"It is an injustice to further dilute the grading standards of choice beef," he said. "The first case of the marbling legal battle was

Cal Poly conducts video tape auction

By ALEX MOSTROUS

As a crowd of over 250 interested buyers filled the auction barn for the 26th annual Cal Poly Performance Tested Bull Sale at San Luis Obispo, Calif., over 600 miles to the north another crowd made themselves comfortable in the lobby of the California Pines Lodge in Altruss. What do these two groups have in common? They are both attending a bull sale. Not unusual you say, but it just happens to be the same sale!

That's right, the same Cal Poly Test Bull Sale

that was taking place in San Luis Obispo, was also giving interested cattlemen in the Altruss the same chance to bid via video tape and inlets of telephone lines.

Impossible? No; practical? A bit early to tell; successful? Yes!

The reason for the video auction stems from a convenient standpoint, explained Dan Dell of Klamath Falls, Ore., video performance coordinator. "Modoc County is, of course, known for their cattle ranches and the cattlemen are pro-

(Continued on page 3)

WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL

News • Trends • Sales • Shows • Markets

October 18, 1981

Central Edition

Vol. 80, No. 51

Cattle runs likely to peak end of Oct.:

Feeder cattle movement expected to occur after first killing frost

The bulk of the fall feeder cattle movement will occur after the first killing frost, according to livestock analysts and feeder cattle dealers contacted by CNS.

Feeder cattle runs are likely to peak the last week of October and the first two weeks of November, the sources projected. A larger percentage of yearlings already have moved, compared with calves, they agreed.

A widespread killing frost will occur throughout much of the Midwest, according to Global Weather Services. The frost could extend as far south as Northern Arkansas, GWS said.

Excellent fall grazing conditions and unattractive feeder cattle prices have resulted in feeder cattle being held off the market, said Bob Price, Western Livestock

Marketing Information project leader. Cheap feed will limit price pressure on feeder cattle, he said.

"Our receipts (of feeder cattle) have been down 20% from a year ago," said Gene Sorrel, feeder cattle dealer with Sittin, Coots and Swords of Hopkinsville, Ky.

Most of the yearlings have been sold in the Southeast and about 40% of the calves have moved, Sorrel said. The yearlings moved two weeks earlier than usual this fall because feeder prices would weaken, he said.

Yearling prices could lose as much as \$5.00 to \$7.00 per cwt. when the bulk of these cattle move, said Dick Hummel, farmers grain and livestock analyst. Hummel estimated that less than 40% of the yearlings nationally

have been sold.

High Plains and Corn Belt yearling prices will average from \$62.00 to \$64.00 during the peak movement and calf prices will average from \$66.00 to \$68.00, Price said. In-weights of feeder cattle will be 30 lb. above a year ago because of the excellent grazing conditions, he added.

Feedlots will place more yearlings than calves this year, Price said. However, the excellent wheat pasture prospects will support calf prices, he said.

If the Southeast experience a warmer-than-usual fall, Sorrel said, feeder cattle movement could stretch into January, which would lessen the pressure on prices.

The demand for calves from Kansas, Oklahoma

(Continued on page 3)

NEWSPAPER (priority handling)

CENTRAL EDITION

NEWSPAPER (priority handling)

House Bill 1228 provides other interest rate ceilings

With fluctuating and occasionally high interest rates in the office, borrowers should be aware of recent Texas legislation relating to interest rate ceilings.

House Bill 1228, dealing with permissible interest rate ceilings in Texas, became law last May 8 and provides alternative interest rate ceilings that apply to almost all types of loans. Exceptions include loans for mobile homes and home solicitation transactions.

The law allows creditors (lenders) to choose an interest rate allowed by a weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual ceiling, points out Dr. Ashley Lovell of Stephenville, economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Texas A&M University System. This rate is calculated for each of the time periods on the basis of weekly auction rates of U.S. treasury bills.

An example of a recent interest rate based on this new legislation is as follows: a 24% interest rate applied for the weekly rate for Aug. 24-30, for the monthly rate for August, for the quarterly rate for July 1-Sept. 30, and for the annual rate for July 1, 1981-June 30, 1982.

In this example, borrowings for personal, family, household or agricultural uses would be subject to a 24% per annum maximum rate. Credit in excess of \$250,000 for business, commercial, investment and similar uses would be subject to a 28% per annum

limitation. The state interest ceiling law does not affect federal preemptions for agricultural loans, notes Lovell.

Regarding the provisions of this new law, the economist notes the following items for agricultural producers:

- The law applies to variable rate loans.
- A monthly ceiling is available only in variable rate contracts.
- Once a creditor has chosen a ceiling rate, such as the weekly rate, for a particular contract, he can not change to another ceiling rate during the life of that contract.
- Applicable rules of the law to a specific situation depend on whether an open-end account or a closed-end contract is involved.

An open-end account is a typical charge account or revolving loan agreement. If the open- or closed-end loan is on a variable interest rate, the rate charged must not exceed the ceiling chosen for that agreement.

Once parties have agreed on an interest rate, they are also considered to have agreed to any lesser rate that a creditor may elect or be required to implement, unless other arrangements have been made.

Registring an open-end account, once a fixed rate is elected for a quarter or a year, that rate may not be increased during the specified period.

If a borrower refuses an interest rate increase on an open-end account, he has the right to pay off the existing balance, at the old rate and over the time period, under the same terms as prior to the rate change. However, additional charges to that account will be subject to the new terms.

Applicable ceilings for renewals and extensions are the same as any other contracts negotiated at the time of the renewal or extension.

Monthly, quarterly and annual interest rate ceilings calculated by the Consumer Credit Commission are published in the "Texas Register," points out Lovell. Local financial institutions also have this information.

A more detailed explanation of this new interest rate ceiling legislation is available from the Texas Bankers Assn., 203 West 10th St., Austin, Texas, 78701. Include \$1 for postage and handling.

The half-million dollar price for the half-interest is the highest ever paid either

Buyer pays \$500,000 for 1/2 interest in certified Brangus

The sale of one-half an interest in a certified 3/4 Brangus - 1/4 Angus bull—production of a registered Brangus—at a record setting \$500,000 to Spring Creek Ranch, Searcy, Ark., has been announced by L.D. "Brink" Brinkman, owner of Brinks Brangus of Sisterdale and Kerrville, Texas, and the purchasers.

David Meyer, chief executive officer and owner of Spring Creek Ranch, said the purchase of the half interest in the bull was "one of the best investments we could make in the future of Spring Creek."

"We had the choice of purchasing a quality herd sire such as Bravo for immediate production of quality Brangus, or we could devote 8 to 10 years of breeding for development of our own sire, as Brinks has done. Even then, raising a bull of Bravo's stature would be near impossible. Spring Creek's future appeared brighter by linking to the established Brink's program," he added.

Glenn Brinkman, manager of Brinks, said

Bravo's breeding was unique in that it carried a blend of American Brahman for substance and correctness with Indu-Brazil (another Zebu or "humped" breed) for cleanliness, size and frame and breed character. The Angus portion, which provides maternal traits, traces to one of the Angus breed's oldest and better known bloodlines.

Bravo is son of the Brinkman breed's only certified meat sire, R.Q.'s Rexcrat 456, the American Brahman Breeders Assn. 1974 National Grand Champion Bull, and is a grandson of Sugarland's Rexcrat 1-229/3, the highest ranked bull on the ABBA Register of known. He is out of a 1/2 Angus - 1/2 Indu-Brazil cow raised by Brinks.

The bull has excellent performance, weighing an actual 710 lb. at 205 days and an actual 1,115 lb. at

365 days. His three-year-old weight was 2,320 lb. He has clean lines with extra elevation and length, with 3/4 blood characteristics. He is structurally correct with tremendous quarter, rump and bone carried on well-balanced feet and legs.

"The result is one of the most talked about and proved Certified 3/4 blood bulls of the Brangus breed," Brinkman said, adding, "he is destined to become one of the breed's great influencing sires."

The Brangus breed is one of the fastest growing breeds in the American beef industry today because of its immediate contributions to changing standards within the industry. Those changes, primarily toward efficient production of quality lean beef at younger ages, provide new impetus to values of these 3/4 Brahman - 1/4 Angus sires, the owners agreed.

Apprehension apparent among attaches:

Block tells conference to work for greater U.S. market access

Faced with a goal of marketing a record 1981 grain harvest, USDA Secretary John Block recently told a meeting of U.S. Asian agricultural attaches to work harder to obtain and maintain market access for U.S. products, within budget constraints.

USDA officials said 40 to 50 Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) jobs would be lost through attrition out of approximately 860 positions in the FAS. As a result, apprehension was apparent among attaches attending the conference.

Some USDA sources said continued budget cutbacks could seriously hurt market development for exports, the main goal of Block's Asian visit. The PL480 program of long-term, low interest credit is expected to be cut by \$140 million.

Block told the attaches world marketing of grains and soybeans has become more competitive, partly because of ill-conceived embargoes that have encouraged other producer

countries. He said the U.S. must work hard to sell abroad at a time of some softening of world demand. The U.S. is very sensitive to access problems in two major markets, the EEC and Japan, he said.

Despite the recent decision by the EEC not to impose a vegetable oil duty, Block said the administration is considering a new strategy for dealing with EEC export subsidies. The U.S. must take a firm stand against the market disruption caused by EEC subsidized exports, he said.

All EEC policies which unfairly place U.S. exporters at a competitive disadvantage will be included in the new strategy, Block said, reports UCN.

Concerning continued access problems to Japan, particularly for beef and citrus, Block stated he would continue pressing the issue and will raise the subject in Tokyo in the next few days.

In South Korea, Block faced the issue of U.S. protectionism. He was asked

by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Koh Kan to exercise his influence in lowering U.S. federal tariff rates for Korean mushrooms. The tariff has been criticized by agriculture and state department officials with Block on the market development tour.

South Korean textiles face import quotas in the U.S., but state department representatives said the two countries understand reasons for the situation.

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BRABO—Bravo of Brinks T807K, the certified 3/4 Brangus bull for which Spring Creek Ranch of Searcy, Ark., paid \$500,000 for 1/2 interest and 1/4 possession from Brinks Brangus, Sisterdale, Texas, is the highest price ever paid for an interest in a bull in the Brangus breed.

Fallowed lands lose moisture in dry years

Summer fallow—when fields are left bare to conserve moisture for the next growing season—actually causes soil water loss during dry years, say two USDA soil scientists at the Northern Plains Soil and Water Research Center, Sidney, Mont.

J. Kristian Aase and Francis H. Siddoway used two precision weighing lysimeters to determine the amount of water lost from cropped and fallowed soil surfaces, during both wet and dry years. Fallowed soil retained about 35% of soil moisture from rainfall during summer in wet years, but in dry years, when water is more urgently needed, fallowed soils lost water.

Cropped and fallowed surfaces lost about the same amount of water until wheat was in the late tillering stage, in both wet and

dry years. After the late tillering stage, wheat fields rapidly lost water compared to fallowed lands. "Summer fallow might be replaced as the standard farming practice on the northern Great Plains with such conservation practices as reduced tillage, chemical fallow, or a 3-year rotation where only every third year fields are fallowed," says Aase with USDA's Agriculture Research Service.

"Fallow is practiced on about 30 million acres of the Great Plains each summer, in an attempt to conserve water and control weeds. Other practices specifically aimed at conserving water and protecting crops from excessive wind and stress, must be incorporated into farming practices on the northern Great Plains to insure successful crop production."

HL RANCH ... NEW OWNERSHIP OF AN ESTABLISHED, WELL-KNOWN BREEDING FIRM

On December 1, 1980, ownership of O'Neil Hereford Ranches at Big Piney, Wyoming, owned by well-known registered breeder, state legislator and businessman Bob O'Neil, changed to a group of California buyers headed by Tom Gilbertson. The breeding program remains the same, as does the day-to-day management by Gerry Endecott.

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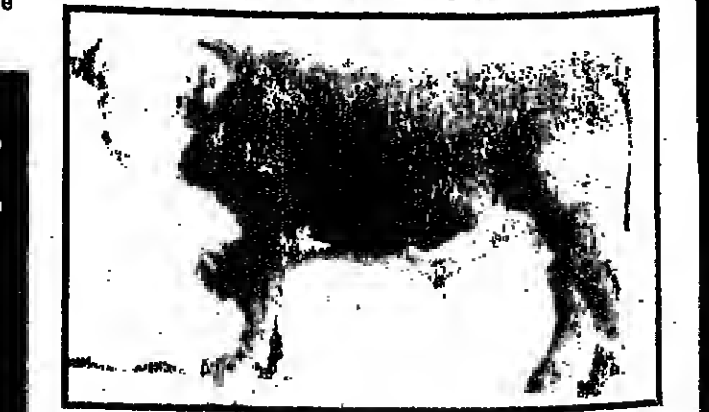
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Technology aids meat processors

New food industry technology and adaptation of technological advances in other industries should help meat processors increase their efficiency in the 1980s, according to an industrial engineering expert.

Speaking to the American Meat Institute, Thor Wylotzky, president of Tec Inc., Alton, Ill., said industrial robots could be used to improve slaughter and product portioning efficiency. He also predicted increased use of computer-linked microprocessors by the industry to control weight, fat content and other composition factors in processed meat products.

Chicago tax lawyer, Lloyd Shafely told the group that the meat industries will be able to take advantage of certain research and development provisions of new U.S. tax laws to reduce the financial risk of technological development.

Arden Walker, Iowa beef processors' vice president for industrial relations, said meat industry relations with organized labor will be a key factor in future productivity.

He said labor unions historically have resisted changes in technology that have led to increased production efficiency. Walker said unions and management could become less adversarial without compromising the goals of either party.

In the interest of increasing industrial productivity, Walker said, the U.S. government needs to abandon the "labor union

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10/19/81



ANGUS TOUR—Lots of people and good Angus cattle mixed well on the recent Midwest Angus Advance Tour through northwestern Iowa; southeastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota. The tour was sponsored by the Iowa Angus Assn. in cooperation with the American Angus Assn.

American Royal

Kansas City's annual American Royal Livestock, Horse Show and Rodeo begins Nov. 5 with continuous activities scheduled through Nov. 21.

Reserved seats range in price from \$4 to \$7.50 for rodeo and horse show events held in the Kompar Arena. There is no admission charge for livestock or horse shows in the American Royal Building.

American Agri-Women

Grand Rapids, Mich. will host the annual convention of American Agri-Women, Nov. 10-14, at the Marriott Hotel. Theme of the convention is: "Franchise Enterprise—Agriculture's Strength; Agriculture—America's Strength."

The convention is open to all those interested in food production and distribution. For more information, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service which has been informed about the convention or write AAW Convention, Box 215, Sparks, MT 49345.

Devon Cattle Assn.

Canille Hoyt, Devon Cattle Assn. secretary, announces that the association's board of directors will meet Nov. 6-7 in Uvalde, Texas. Meetings will be held at the association's new offices, located in the First State Bank of Uvalde. Committee meetings will take up the agenda on Friday. The board of directors meeting will be held on Nov. 7.

All Devon breeders should make plans to attend these activities. For more information contact: Devon Cattle Assn., Inc., P.O. Drawer 628, Uvalde, TX 78801, 512/278-2201.



OFFICERS—The Kansas Junior Livestock Assn. held their annual meeting at the Kansas Junior Livestock Show in Wichita recently. Election of officers and directors highlighted the meeting with the following individuals selected for the coming year: Bob Dahoff (left), secretary/treasurer; Lori Riffel, reporter; Scott Barrows, western director; Gregg Stewart, central director; Shad Marston, vice-president; Kant McCune, president.

C.S.U. Cooperative Extension Service

A two-day sheep-shearing school will be held Oct. 23 and 24 at the Morgan County Fairgrounds in Brush, Colo. Sponsored by the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service, the shearing school will be conducted by Charles Swain, four-time national shearing champion. Registrations for the shearing school must be received at CSU by Oct. 5. Anyone 15 years old or older may apply. The \$27.50 registration fee must be submitted with the registration form, which can be obtained from extension agents and vocational agriculture instructors. Only the first 24 registrations received will be accepted.

National Pork Producers

Porkettes from across the nation will gather in Nashville, Tenn., to talk pork at the National Porkette Information Conference, Nov. 11-13.

The conference, which is held every other year, is designed to update porkettes on projects, industry developments and approaches they can use to more effectively reach the consumer with pork information. For more information and registration materials, contact NPPC, Consumer Affairs Dept., P.O. Box 10883, Des Moines, IA 50308, 515/223-2400.

North American International

The complete schedule of events for the 1981 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) has been announced. Harold Wordman, general manager of the expo, said the two weeks (Nov. 7-21) exposition will again feature show and sale events for beef, sheep, swine, dairy and Quarter Horses. Total premiums for all events at the 1981 North American International Livestock Exposition will hit an all-time show record of over \$300,000.

For further information contact: Claude L. Brock or Linda L. Kalvar, Ag Associates, Inc., 758 South First St., Suite 200, Louisville, KY 40202, 502/584-8060.

American Junior Hereford Assn.

The 17th annual American Junior Hereford Assn. convention will climax another progressive year for the world's largest youth beef breed organization on Nov. 6-8 in Kansas City, Mo.

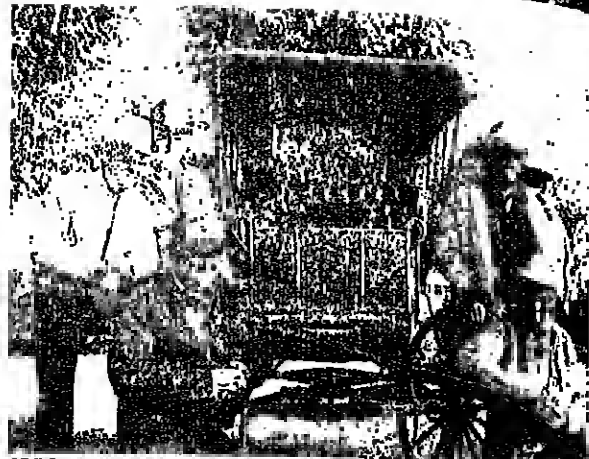
The convention will deal with leadership development, national officer elections, national contests, activity planning, and recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the last year.

Reservations to attend the awards banquet Sunday, Nov. 8, 6:30 p.m., Ramada Inn Central, Kansas City, Mo., can be obtained by calling the American Hereford Assn. Youth Department, 816/842-3757.

Grand National Expo

Prominent ranchers from throughout the West will congregate at the Cow Palace on Thursday, Oct. 29 for Cattlemen's Day—an annual feature of the Grand National Livestock Exposition, Rodeo, and Horse Show this year being held Oct. 23-Nov. 1. Highlighting the festivities will be the honoring of the Livestock Man of the Year, named by the California Chamber of Commerce for contributions to the state's livestock industry.

For more information on Cattlemen's Day, contact the Cow Palace Livestock Dept., P.O. Box 34206, San Francisco, CA 94134, 415/469-6071.



HOSTS—Pictured here are hosts of the Black Hills Angus Assn. Tour with guest speaker Dick Spader (far left), executive vice president of the American Angus Assn. The tour drew more than 125 people to view cattle from five Angus operations in southwest South Dakota.

Professional Ag Workers

Dates for the 55th annual conference of the Professional Agricultural Workers of Texas have been announced for Oct. 27-28 in Corpus Christi at the La Quinta Motor Inn.

The conference program will include a number of key speakers, tours of the Corpus Christi and Kingsville areas, other planned activities, an annual business meeting and election of officers.

The professional organization is open to all career agricultural workers and provides an opportunity for members to update knowledge and skills while working jointly on common concerns.

N.D. Stockmen's Assn.

Kenneth Schmidt has been named chief brand inspector of the North Dakota Stockmen's Assn. in Bismarck. The appointment is effective immediately. Schmidt replaces Bob Radko, who resigned in July.

NMSU College Ranch study tries pumping water with sun

Windmills have been part of the landscape for about as long as anybody can remember. New Mexico is the perfect place for windmills, most of the time.

They are mechanical contraptions with lots of built in creaking and groaning, but they're fairly reliable. They can be set up in remote areas and will operate without much attention for long periods of time. If the well isn't too deep, they are fairly efficient.

The real trouble with windmills is that they stop working when the wind stops blowing. It seems like the wind is always blowing in New Mexico, but the spring tempests lead to a breeze and finally to a whisper by June, July and August.

Day after day can pass in New Mexico's summer months when the wind isn't blowing hard enough to turn a windmill. Unfortunately, that's when livestock need water the most. And that's where windmill technology comes apart; the wind is free power until it stops blowing.

If there's anything New Mexico has more of than wind, it's sunshine. The state averages 350 days a year with sunshine.

Charles Hohn, Extension water resource specialist for New Mexico State University, said, "We can count on 500 to 600 minutes of sunshine every day, and we can convert that directly to horsepower with photovoltaic cells."

"Maybe the biggest bonus for the farmer and

rancher is the fact that our summer days can stretch almost to 14 hours—840 minutes—when cattle need

water the most," he said.

Hohn isn't talking about the future. While he's describing how photovoltaic cells work, he's leaning against a 50,000-gallon water tank that is kept full by a solar-powered well pump. The experimental project is on the NMSU College Ranch about 20 miles north of Las Cruces.

"Electrical technology started out with direct current, but got switched over to the alternating current most of us have been living with for the past 75 years. But to take full advantage of solar power, we're going to have to go back to direct current again," he said.

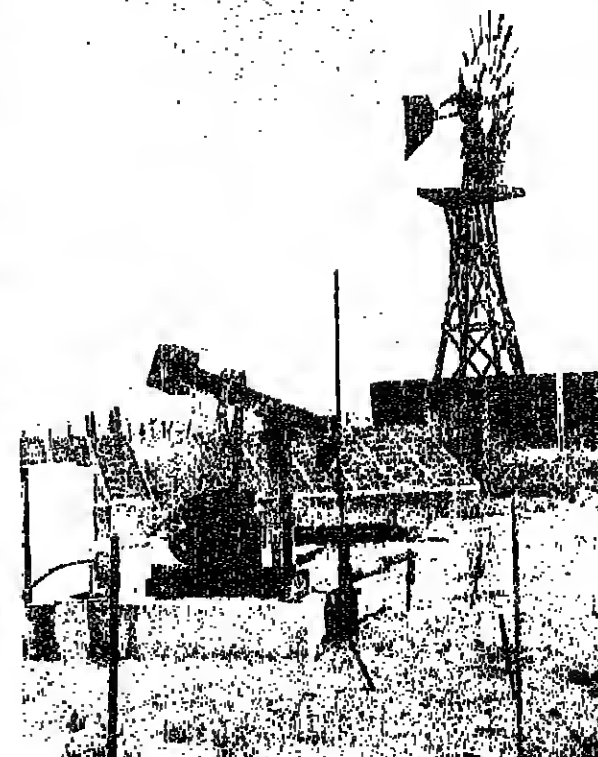
Photovoltaic cells convert sunlight directly to direct current (DC) power. One photocell doesn't produce much electricity, but there are no moving parts. No creaking and groaning, nothing to break or wear out.

The experimental project is based on an array of 167 photovoltaic panels, each containing about 20 three-inch circles of silicon. In the middle of a sunny day,

its peak output is about 60 volts at 20 amps, or about one and a half horsepower. The power is put through a switching panel, a box full of batteries, and finally reaches a one-horsepower motor that drives a pump jack through a belt and pulley.

Hohn said, "We're losing some power with this up-and-down pump arrangement we have here, and through the pump's gearbox, but we're pumping water without wind."

"The idea of pumping water with sunshine has been around for several years, and the technology to do the job has been around for a few years. The project on the NMSU College Ranch got started about three years ago. When the water pumping project started, a flow meter on the outlet pipe bounced between five and six gallons a minute. 'On an average 600-minute day, that's almost 3,000 gallons of water,' Hohn said. 'That will support 150 head of cattle—they drink about 20 gallons a day in the heat of summer.'



WINDMILLS—The windmill in the background has been replaced with the solar-powered pump jack in the foreground. The experimental project has been set up on the NMSU College Ranch and may be the forerunner of similar systems that will be common to ranches in the future.

Reno lab demonstrates new livestock fencing

"Barbed wire was hard to come by," said John Wall, with a New Zealand roll to his speech, as he described the development of a high-tensile strength, smooth wire farm and ranch fence that had its beginnings, 1973, in New Zealand.

Wall talked about his fence as he drove posts and stretched wire at the University of Nevada's Main Station Field Laboratory in Reno. He was working with John and Bill Warren of Reliable Fence Co. in Sparks, who, along with Koppers Co. of Pittsburgh, Penn., were donating the fence to the University. The work was done in mid-September.

"We're fencing about three acres here as a sheep pasture," said Bill Warren, "for demonstration purposes. University scientists, as well as farmers and ranchers who visit, will be able to evaluate the fence relative to other fencing materials." The 10 strand, high-tensile strength, smooth wire fence will have some strands electrified, not to keep the sheep in but to dog-proof it, and to "educate" some of the University's large breeding bulls for their cattle program in adjacent pastures.

"Electrifying these fences has proven very effective against predators like coyotes and dogs," Wall pointed out, "but you really don't have to electrify it for the bulls. That fence right there could withstand a force of nine tons, but if you put a little electricity along the top it helps wise the bulls up about up about fences."

According to Wall and Bill Warren the advantages of the smooth wire fence are numerous. They say it is relatively easy to build, and has been designed to be very easy to maintain. The wire used was developed by U.S. Steel, and has nearly twice the breaking strength of two-ply barbed wire.

More, the wire, said Wall and Warren, when stretched to the recommended tightness, has an elasticity enabling it to spring back to its original form after pressure on it has been released. Each strand can withstand 1,200 lb. of live-

stock pressure or cold weather contraction without losing its elasticity," they noted. The smooth wire fence, too, has the advantage of being safer for animals over barbed wire. "You don't get the cuts and knicks with this kind of fence," Wall explained, saying, "a lot of ideas everyday are rejected for prime leather because they have old barbed wire marks on them."

Wall, who is based in Pennsylvania, has been out in the West putting on workshops for the Koppers Co. on installation of the smooth wire fences. He is a native of New Zealand and first developed the fence there. He had driven an especially built pick-up truck with a post driver on it all the way from Pennsylvania. Both the Warrens said it was the best driver of the kind they had seen. It easily drove round, crooked treated wood posts into the Main Station field soils. It, of course, wasn't designed for rocky type terrain.

Post centers for the demonstration fence vary from 12' to 60'. Where there are longer spans, easily installed apocars are used.

"It sure makes a good looking fence," said Dr. Bill Vaughn, State Cooperative Extension Sheep Specialist in the Ag. College at UNR, "now we'll have to see how it works."



SALES—Montana Silver-Smith, designer and manufacturer of silver belt buckles and accessories, announced the addition of Peter Wiley to the How-Tex sales staff. Wiley will cover part of Houston and southwest Texas.

GREEN MOUNTAIN ANGUS

GOLDEN-AGRESSO

SALE

Monday **NOVEMBER 9, 1981** 12:30 p.m.
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SELLING 70 LOTS

10 1981 Bull Calves • 50 1981 Heifer Calves • 10 Proven Brood Cows

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EDITOR'S NOTE: "Mind Your Ag Business" appears in WLJ the third week of every month. Martha Williams is the editor of Crow Publications, Inc.'s "Winning's Ag Business Review," a twice-monthly newsletter which focuses on economic, business, consumer and legislative concerns of interest to women in agriculture.

By MARTHA WILLIAMS

One of the best breaks for farmers and ranchers in the 1981 Economic Recovery Tax Act (ERTA) is the change in what was called under the 1976 law the special use valuation. In what is apparently an effort to disclaim end "special" breaks for segments of the taxpayer population it's now called current use valuation.

Generally, when real property is valued for an estate it's figured at "highest and best use." Obviously, as urban areas encroach on prime farmland, highest and best use can mean a potential shopping center or housing development. So, the 1976 tax law allowed a special use valuation if certain conditions were met. Those conditions were extremely restrictive and complicated, but the 1981 law has made modifications that mean everyone who wants to keep a ranching operation in the family should seriously consider implementing this current use valuation.

Since the 1976 law became effective only slightly over 3000 estates have used this method to reduce the tax owed, but the discounts from fair market value have averaged about

60%.

Under the new law the maximum amount by which a taxable estate can be reduced by using current use valuation is \$600,000 for 1981, \$700,000 for 1982, and \$750,000 for 1983 and subsequent years. The old limit was \$500,000. NCA and other farm organizations pushed hard for a \$1 million ceiling, but Congress balked at the projected revenue loss.

Generally, the property must have been owned by the decedent or member of decedent's family for 5 of the last 8 years prior to death. Now the pre-death qualified use requirement can be satisfied by either the decedent or the decedent's family, retroactive to Jan. 1, 1977. And, the new law redefines family to include a person's spouse, parents, brothers, sisters, children, stepchildren, and the spouses and lineal descendants of all those.

Further modification allows net share rentals to be used in the formula valuation method when no cash rentals are available. And, timber qualifies as real property for this special use valuation.

Material participation, which was a sore point under the old law, has been re-defined. Now an estate can qualify for special use valuation even if the deceased owner became permanently disabled or was the recipient of social security payments.

The new law also shortens the recapture period from 15 years to 10. This provision essentially says that all or a portion of the estate tax benefits attributable to the special use valuation are to be recaptured if the property is

disposed of to anyone other than a family member, or the operation is no longer used for farming, within 10 years of the owner's death. Another break under the new law is a grace period of two years from the time of owner's death until other family members actually have to take over.

All these changes generally go into effect for estates of persons who die after December 31, 1981. The executor of the estate makes the election to use this provision of the new tax law, but obviously, because of the complexity of the law, advance planning can be particularly helpful. There are some 23 technical changes, and some are retroactive to 1977. Note that any refunds have to be applied for by February 1982, so if you think any of the changes may apply to

your situation get your accountant busy researching so you won't miss that filling date.

As always, with complicated tax regulations like this you need expert advice. The experts are hustling to interpret this one. But, it's a provision that can save a family ranch for your kids and grandchildren, so it's worth being sure they understand the requirements and options.

Directors approve AMI/NMI merger

The board of directors of the American Meat Institute recently approved a plan to merge with the National Meat Assn., an AMI spokesman said.

The NMA's board of directors will vote on the merger Oct. 21.

Species I.D.

Policy will force domestic testing

USDA will be forced to establish a species monitoring program for domestic boneless meat to load off allegations that its new imported meat species testing requirements are an artificial trade barrier, a USDA official said recently.

Speaking at an American Meat Institute meeting, Donald Houston, head of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, noted that USDA recently announced it would require the 17 countries exporting meat to the U.S. to implement species testing programs. That announcement came in the wake of the discovery that other meats had been substituted for beef in some Australian

meat shipments to the U.S. When the exporting countries have implemented their own species testing programs, USDA will embark on a monitoring program under which it will conduct species tests on about 2,000 samples of imported meat per year, Houston said.

Houston told CNS that USDA could begin a species monitoring program for domestic meat as early as next January.

Houston said the species testing and monitoring program will be conducted by FSIS' microbiology division. The cost of the programs may prevent FSIS from doing microbiological testing in other areas.

ANNOUNCING

Over 800 head of Canadian Herefords selling November 5-14

November 5
BAR PIPE FARMS
25 Bull Calves
27 Bred Two-Year-Old
Heifers
Okotoks, Alberta

November 8
BLUME RANCHES, LTD.
45 Bulls
45 Bred Heifers
Casper, Alberta

November 7
B & H HEREFORD FARMS
200 Head
Bred Yearling Heifers
Bred Two-Year-Old Heifers
Yearling Bulls
Bred Cows
Millet, Alberta

November 9
LRD HEREFORDS
18 Bull Calves
18 Yearling Bulls
40 Bred Heifers
Innisfail, Alberta

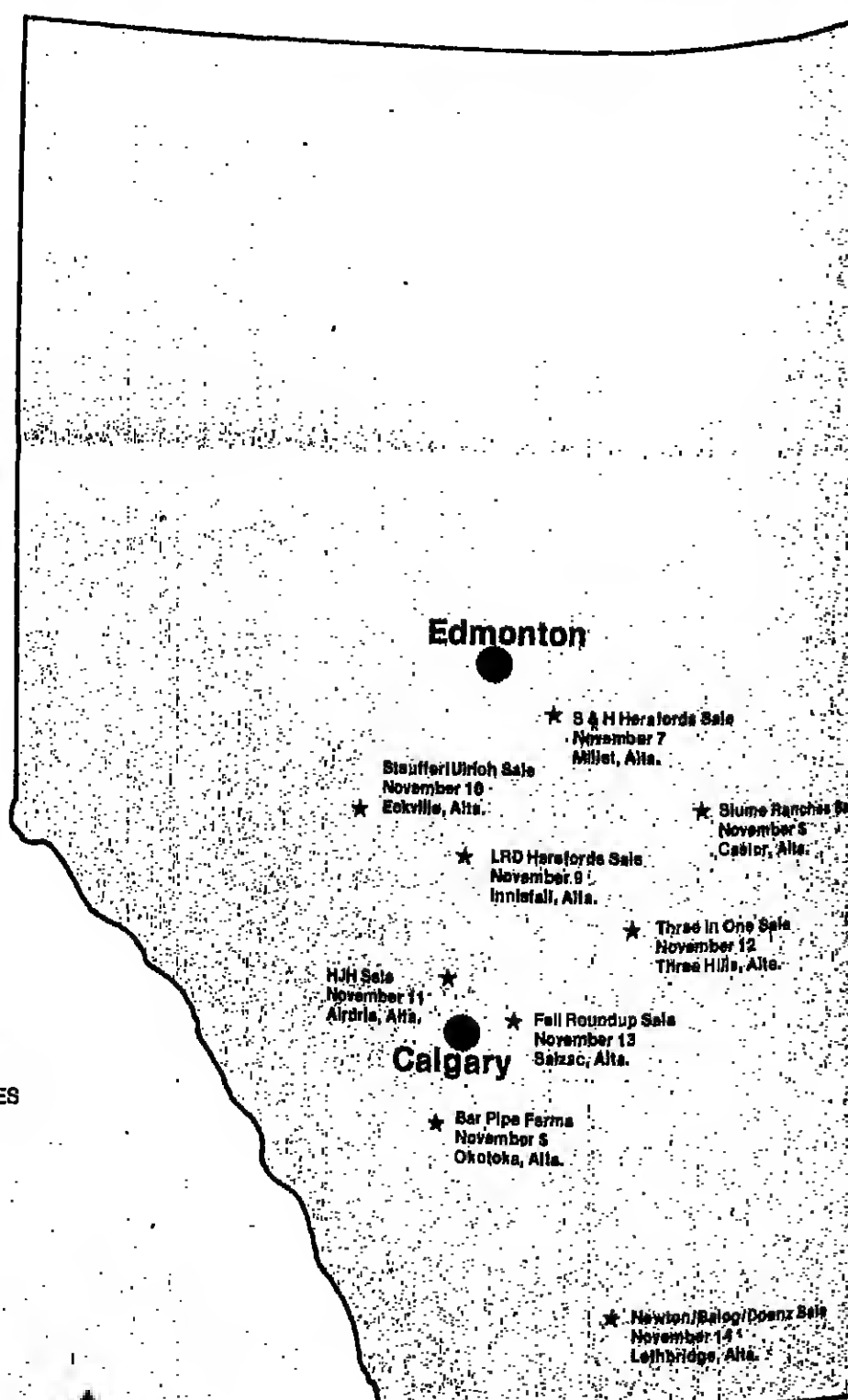
November 10
STAUFFER FARMS &
ULRICH HEREFORD
RANCH
20 Yearling Bulls
B Calves
48 Bred Females
Eckville, Alberta

November 11
HOLE HEREFORD FARMS
JONES CIRCLE V RANCH
HANSON'S BELL RANCHES
72 Yearling Bulls
58 Bred Heifers
Aldridge, Alberta

November 12
EVANS, GARSON &
SOMMERVILLE
50 Females
20 Bulls
Three Hills, Alberta

November 13
FALL ROUNDUP SALE
JONES, BUSHFIELD,
SHEEHAN & EVANS
36 Yearling Bulls
23 Bred Yearling Heifers
Bezac, Alberta

November 14
NEWTON, DOENZ & BALOG
2 Two-Year-Old Bulls
15 Yearling Bulls
12 Bull Calves
12 Heifer Calves
36 Bred Yearling Heifers
18 Bred Two-Year-Old
Heifers



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LEG OF LAMB—With seasonally high production on fall lambs which are currently going to market, October, November and December are good months for serving fresh American lamb. Supermarkets will be featuring lamb in wide varieties in upcoming weeks, and consumers will be able to reap the benefits of high quality, good quantity and reasonable price. The American Sheep Producers Council is always available as a source for creative, delicious recipes and ideas. Shoppers can contact the ASPC at 200 Clayton St., Dept. 10 Z 1, Denver, Colo. 80206.

Import reduction worries Australia

Australian Primary Industries Minister Peter Nixon recently expressed concern about declining Japanese beef imports, while urging Tokyo to open its markets for Australian citrus fruit.

Nixon, visiting Tokyo on a world tour to explain new measures to prevent repatriation of the recent Australian meat substitute scandal, met with Takao Kameoka, Japanese Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF).

Nixon said at a news conference the Australian government assured Japan that meat substitution cannot occur again in its export trade.

Nixon said Kameoka told him that the situation was caused by over abundant dairy beef supplies here and the imbalance should be rectified.

Nixon said Kameoka told him total Japanese beef imports were expected to increase considerably beyond the present level of around 136,000 tons in the next decade.

He stressed that Kameoka told him, "Australia would participate fully in growth of imports (of beef)."

Touching on Australia's access to the Japanese citrus fruit market, Kameoka told the minister the two

countries will discuss the issue at the official level, said Nixon.

"I also took the opportunity to raise with Mr. Kameoka our concern regarding the future of our sugar market in Japan," said Nixon, but made no mention as to when Japan can renegotiate a new long-term contract for raw sugar.

This sale did not draw a large crowd, however, it was a crowd that contained more interest than its size would project. This crowd bid right along on these cattle and more action was created than one might expect.

The general trend of the market has been down for about 10 days. This never helps a purebred sale; in all sales of this nature this trend has harmed recently.

Auction Results

LANDERS RANCHES
HEREFORD DISPERSION
Miles City, Mont., Oct. 5

213 lots.....\$941

Auctioneers: Ken Trout
and Bill Rehm
Sales Manager: United Livestock
Brokers, Inc.

Bulls: FRC Yampa Lad 13,
218/77 by FRC Sir 1; Bary Land &
Livestock Co., Vida, \$2500; JV
Britisher Don 927, 217/79 by DV
Lord Churchill 1, Don McNanny,
Tarry, \$1950; FRC Yampa King 14,
215/78 by FRC Sir 1; McNanny,
\$1500; And, FRC Yampa Don 30,
312/79 by FRC Count 1; Janson
Bro., Circle, \$1500.

Cows and calves: Madam Advance 13, 329/75 by HH Advance
C981; Quarter Circle Cattle Co.,
Sidney, Neb., \$1900. Bull calf,
321/81 by RC Reon Evan 18;
Richard Malcolm, Baker, \$750.

Madam L1 1, 313/75 by HHR Lad 1
303; McNanny, \$1500; Hailer
calf, 411/81 by RC Reon Evan 18;
McNanny, \$700; Madam Advance
2, 316/75 by HH Advance C981;
Halm Hereford Ranch, Miles City,
\$1200. Bull calf, 328/81 by RC
Reon Evan 18; Sir X Ranch,
Baker, \$800; Madam L1 21, 34/77
by HHR Lad 1 303; Largent &
Sons, Wilsall, \$1100. Bull calf,
422/81 by FRC Yampa King 14;
Largent & Sons, \$485; Madam L1
13, 330/79 by HHR Lad 1 303;
Halm, \$1000; Hailer calf, 411/81
by FRC Yampa Lad 13; Halm, \$990.
Madam L1 35, 43/79 by HHR Lad
1 303; McNanny, \$1150; Hailer
calf, 330/81 by FRC Yampa Don
25; McNanny, \$420.

Hollers: Madam Double 34,
429/79 by Double D4; Largent &
Sons, \$1100. And, Madam Reon
21, 427/79 by RC Reon Evan 18;
Largent, \$900.

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This never helps a purebred sale;
in all sales of this nature this
trend has harmed recently.

Some of the thinking is a

CHISOLM TRAIL POLLED
HEREFORDS
Rhine, Texas, Sept. 30

240-1/2 lots.....\$2,094

Auctioneers: Eddie Sims
and Jim Birdwell
Sales Manager: National Cattle
Services

Tops: FLF Victor D 89 21,
715/77 by Vindicator; Trevis Pol-
led Herefords, Rockwell, \$30,000.
CTR Victor V 25M, 317/80 by Will
Via Juste V: Clint Josey, Dallas,
\$15,000; CTR M Vic 243 11L, 34/78
by OR DOM 548 F 243; Raithe and
Snee, Columbus, Tenn., \$14,000.
OR Lady DOM 549 H21, 130/78 by
JAO Domino PR 549; Wong Polled
Herefords, Austin, \$12,500; CTR M
VIC 81 98L, 48/79 by Victorious
K47 U81; Sealey and Farrington,
Abilene and Hawley, \$12,000; CTR
M VIC 1 30 02K, 317/78 by LS
Beau Victor 1 30; Empiro Polled
Herefords, Litchfield, Conn.,
\$7100; M DOM 251 97K, 110/78 by
OR DOM P243 H251; Quail Run
Ranch, Walnut Springs, \$7100.
CTR M OOM 119K, 222/70 by OR
OOM P243 H251; Ron Kar, Little
Falls, N. Y., \$5750; OR Victoria
D135 G385, 425/75 by OR Victor
K47 D135; Rob Hamilton, Pueblo,
Colo., \$9500. OR Victoria F19
G207, 222/75 by RWJ VIC Domino
F19; Larry Talley, M. Pleasant,
\$8500; JRM M15 VIC 130 420,
307/74 by LS Beau Victor 1 30;
Clint Josey, \$8000.

Owner Bill Miller sold his entire
registered Polled Hereford herd to
concentrate on a commercial
operation utilizing Brahman-Polled
Hereford F-1 families. All the
cattle found new homes and were
dispersed over a wide area. A
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framed nice, uddered females and
paid good money to own them.

The action was fast and
another 11 is a shame to see line
hardly like this one dispersed, but
the genetics purchased this day
will continue to improve the Pol-
led breed.

—LEE PITTS

CONNALLY RANCHES
SANTA GERTRUDIS
Pleasanton, Texas, Oct. 8

14 bulls.....\$3,415
11 pairs.....3,630
18 bred females.....2,909

Auctioneers: Gerald Bowie

Bulls: 988, 113/79 by Clarendon
Plantation 148; Pal Welder
Ranches, Victoria, \$5000, \$1280,
217/79 by Hiss 642 13; Pal
Welder, \$5000.

Pairs: 8042, 24/79 by Four C
Ranch 284 John B. and her 24/78
hailer calf by San Jose; Nine 64
Ranch, Cypress, \$7000.

—LEE PITTS

Westerly Livestock Journal

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riding and roping arena.
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established business, no real estate, can
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on West Gallatin River.
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